

PSYCHIATRIC AIDES, also called psychiatric technician assistants, work under the supervision of psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, and social workers to provide nursing and personal care to developmentally disabled, mentally ill or substance abuse patients in State or private hospitals or private nursing facilities. The most common tasks include assisting patients with bathing, dressing or feeding; encouraging patients to participate in educational and recreational activities; recording patient blood pressure, pulse and temperature; and aiding or restraining patients to prevent injuries. Psychiatric Aides report any health or behavioral changes to the supervising medical staff.

Psychiatric Aides may play games such as cards with the patients, watch television with them, or participate in group activities such as sports or field trips. They observe patients and report any physical or behavioral signs that might be important for the professional staff to know. They accompany patients to and from examinations and treatments. Because they have such close contact with patients, Psychiatric Aides can have a great deal of influence on their outlook and treatment.

### Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Desire to help others.
- ▲ Tact.
- ▲ Emotional stability.
- ▲ Nursing Assistant Certification issued by the Department of Health Services is preferred.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required for certification.

### Wages

- |                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| ▲ Psychiatric Aides    |          |
| Median hourly wage:    | \$12.00  |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$24,714 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

## Psychiatric Aides

### Job Outlook

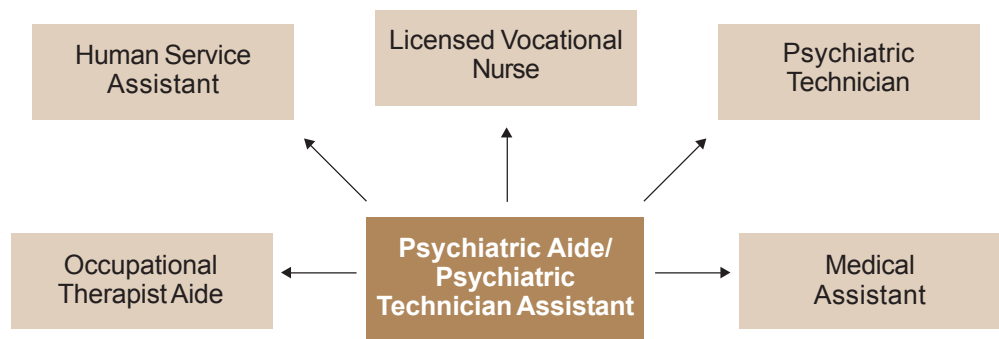
▲ Estimated number of Psychiatric Aides in 2004:	1,400
▲ Estimated number of Psychiatric Aides in 2014:	1,700
▲ Estimated annual job openings:	50

Source: *Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.*

### Sources of Information

- ▲ California Association of Psychiatric Technicians  
(800) 677-2278  
[www.psych-health.com](http://www.psych-health.com)
- ▲ Department of Health Services  
Licensing and Certification  
(916) 327-2445  
[www.dhs.ca.gov/lnc/cert](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/lnc/cert)
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 567  
Psychiatric Aides

### Possible Career Paths



*The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.*